

Remarks

In the third paragraph of the Official Action,
Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second
paragraph. Claims 1 and 19 are being amended to clarify
5 the claim, though not to change its scope in any way.

"Each of the plurality of objects" and "each object of the
plurality of objects" means the same thing, though
applicants are taking this extra step to ensure that there
will be no confusion.

10 "the object" recited in lines 6, 9 and 12 of claim 1
refers to the object specified in claim 5. That object is
specified as being of the plurality of objects. The
relationships between the claim terms are clear and
Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection.

15 Claims 1 and 19 have been clarified to make explicit
that each of the objects in the plurality has one of a
plurality of types. This amendment again is not intended
to change the claim scope, but to ensure that the claim
cannot be misconstrued. Each object in the plurality has
20 one of a plurality of types. Although the claim will be
satisfied if all of the objects have the same type, the
claim will also be satisfied if not all of the objects in
the plurality have the same type. In either case, for each

object in the plurality, if the object has the first type,
the first set of information is provided.

Regarding claim 2, the identifiers are those that will
be returned unchanged by a processing system. Examiner
5 states that it isn't clear whether the identifiers
themselves will not be changed or the information
corresponding to those identifiers will not be changed, but
the claim states that it is the identifiers themselves that
will not be changed. Examiner states that it is not
10 understood how an identifier can be changed. However, the
claim only addresses the fact that the identifiers will not
be changed and so it is not clear why Examiner requires
understanding regarding something that isn't claimed.
However, to help Examiner's understanding, reference is
15 made to the text immediately preceding Example 3 and
Examples 3 and 4 for one such example, although there may
be others in the specification. In the examples, there is
server side code that can be changed by the server when the
server interprets the code. However, the comments, such as
20 "<!--MMDW 0-->" and "<!--MMDW 0-->", being comments are not
changed by the server. The claim language is clear and it
is supported by the specification. Thus, Examiner is
requested to withdraw the objection.

Regarding claim 6, Examiner asks why there is a third identifier used for objects having a second type, when there is no first and second identifier for objects having that type. The language is used for precision and clarity: one typically does not reuse reference numbers in the same claim. Claim 1 says, responsive to the object having a first type, two identifiers are provided: a first identifier and a second identifier. Claim 6 adds that, responsive to the object having a second type, a third identifier is provided. The use of the term "third identifier" is to eliminate confusion between the first identifier and second identifier set forth in claim 1. If the "first identifier" was claimed as being provided responsive to the object having the second type, it could imply that the first identifier had to be the same one as the first identifier that would be provided responsive to the object having the second type. But that is not a requirement, and so a "third identifier" is specified. Examiner is requested to understand that the identifiers are labeled within the *claim* and claim 6 includes claim 1 by its dependency. Because there already exists a "first identifier" and a "second identifier" in the claim, the "third identifier" is used to indicate the possibility that that identifier could be, but is not required to be,

different from the others. The claim language is clear and Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection.

Regarding claims 9 and 27, a patentee is allowed to be his or her own lexicographer. The term "at least one
5 object" is a clear statement regarding what is claimed. There is a first one of those and a second one of those. The term "second at least one object" need not refer to a second object of the at least one object, though it could. Thus, the claim is clear and Examiner is requested to
10 withdraw the rejection.

In the fourth paragraph of the Official Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, 24-31, and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,907,837 issued to Ferrel ("Ferrel"). This rejection is
15 respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 19 recite an order to the first set of information, namely that it contains, "a first identifier; information related to the object, following the first identifier; and a second identifier, following
20 the information related to the object." This means that the information related to the object is *between* the identifiers.

Examiner asserts on page 4 of the official action,
line 9, that the information related to the object *follows*
the identifiers. Although applicants are unable to locate
in the portion of the reference cited by Examiner the
5 ordering specified by Examiner, assuming for the purpose of
argument that the Examiner is correct, the information
related to the object is not *between* the identifiers as set
forth in the claim. Thus, claims 1 and 19 are patentably
distinguishable over the cited reference.

10 Line 54 does use the term "between", but this has to
do with the associations discussed by that sentence, not
the ordering of information as specified by the claims.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend from claim 1 and contain all
of its features. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 depend from claim
15 19 and contain all of its features.

Similarly, claim 9 recites, "associating information
between the pair of first identifiers located with the
first at least one object corresponding to the pair of
first identifiers"

20 Claim 27 recites, "associate information between the
pair of first identifiers located with the first at least
one object corresponding to the pair of first identifiers."

These claimed features associate one thing with another. The first thing is information between the pair of first identifiers located. The second thing is the first at least one object corresponding to the pair of first identifiers. This means that something has to be between the pair of first identifiers.

These claimed features are not shown by Ferrel. Ferrel, column 4, lines 53-56, stores an association with two things. The first thing is search properties and the second thing is object identifiers. Ferrel uses the term "between" to specify the associations. There is an association between the search properties and the object identifiers, but there is nothing in Ferrel that specifies that the search properties are actually between the identifiers in a manner identical to that claimed. Thus, claims 9 and 27 are patentably distinguishable over Ferrel.

Claims 11-13, 15, and 17-18 depend from claim 9 and contain all of its features. Claims 29-33 and 34-36 depend from claim 27 and contain all of its features.

Thus, claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, 24-31, and 33-36 are patentably distinguishable over Ferrel.

In paragraphs 25-29, Examiner rejects claims 5, 14, 23 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ferrel in view of Clark (6,073,163). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Examiner relies on the rejection above, but as noted above, Ferrel does not teach the claimed features of the independent claims, and Examiner does not assert that Clark teaches the features omitted by Ferrel. Thus, the claims are patentably distinguishable over Ferrel in view of Clark.

Furthermore, Examiner's asserted motivation is found in Clark and only discusses Clark. It is not found in Ferrel, nor does it discuss the features of Ferrel. Thus, one armed with the specified portion of Clark would use that portion to look only to Clark, not to Ferrel. Thus, there is no motivation to combine these two references.

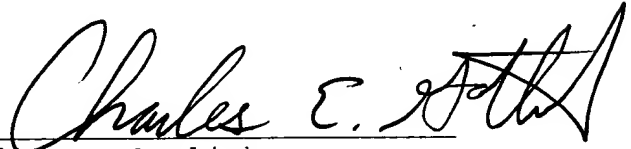
Thus, claims 5, 14, 23 and 32 are patentably distinguishable over Ferrel and Clark, either alone or in combination.

Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-27, 29-33 and 34-36 remaining in
the case are allowable over the cited references and are
also in condition for allowance. Favorable action is
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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